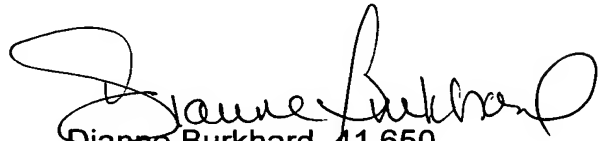


REMARKS

Claims 25, 67, 73, 92 and 104 have been amended, and new claims 107-112 have been added in the Amendment. Upon entry of the Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-112 stand pending in the instant application. Entry of the Preliminary amendment prior to examination on the merits is respectfully requested. No new subject matter has been added by the claim amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Burkhard", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Dianne Burkhard, 41,650
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
551 Paper Mill Road
P.O. Box 9206
Newark, DE 19714-9206
(302) 738-4880

Date: September 1, 2004